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Letter to Robin Wilson regarding union list of law library holdings, November 7, 1973

Betty Taylor

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November 7, 1973

Mr. Robin Wilson
Committee on Institutional
Cooperation
1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 970
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The enclosure, describing an undertaking of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, was mailed recently to all accredited law school libraries in the country. I believe you will find it self-explanatory. For your information, Xerox copies of the preliminary pages and page one of the Property list are included on the assumption that you may not be familiar with the set of Lists which form the basis of this project. There are 48 Lists in all, published between 1966 and 1969. Supplements are to be distributed to subscribers soon, updating the contents through January 1, 1970.

A response from Ms. Chris Stevens at the Indianapolis Law School indicated that the Committee on Institutional Cooperation might conceivably be interested in sponsoring the development of a nationwide Union List of Law Books as a part of your program for institutional cooperation.

The purpose of this letter is to determine if your Committee might be interested in this project; if you would want to participate in its development; and what support you could offer in the way of funding. I am not at liberty to obligate the Chapter in any way without its permission; however, I would develop a proposal for its approval if it seems productive to do so.

The Southeastern Chapter has completed publication of eight Lists, and is now well underway. These law school libraries are also participants in the Solinet system which will be activated the first of the year using O.C.L.C. as the base. In recent discussions with librarians and systems analysts on this campus, the idea of capturing the data in the Lists along with contributed holdings has been considered. According to a manual count, there are approximately 35,500 titles in the original lists, plus Supplements to be published shortly. The data includes the complete bibliographic description of law books such as provided on Library of Congress catalog cards. Provided the necessary permission is obtained from Southeastern Chapter, A.A.L.L. and A.A.L.S., would the C.I.C. be interested in advancing this project to a completely automated system?

Your suggestions, comments, and reaction to this project would be most welcome. If you are not in a position to fund this program, but know of any organizations which might be interested, I would appreciate your referring me to the appropriate sources.

Sincerely,

Betty W. Taylor

(Mrs.) Betty W. Taylor
Director, Law Library

BWT:mp

Encs.

cc: L. Chanin
P. Von Allmen
B. Younger
C. Stevens